

STUDENT LIFE

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Engineering dean continues to raise questions

BY TROY HUMANS
NEWS EDITOR

Engineering students are still concerned about the future of the School of Engineering & Applied Science under the leadership of Dean Mary Sansalone. Although she has shown an increased effort to connect with the students and explain her plans for the engineering school, many questions remain.

"I think that she's a great plan for the future of the School of Engineering in general, but the lack of short-term plans are worrying me," said Risa Lieberwitz, one of the major actors of the Cornell faculty senate at that time. "The faculty senate felt that the administration did not respect the faculty governance...the ad-

ministration last week when she hosted a second forum.

The students feared that recent changes indicated an end to the current dual degree program. Most notably, one of the two dual degree program advisors, Judy Sawyer, had her position eliminated earlier this month with no warning to the dual degree students.

"A lot of students pointed out that it was very poor timing, and it was extremely sudden and that would have to be more informed about these processes that directly affect us," said Cheng. "Dean Sansalone said they would make an effort to do so in the future."

Additionally, the January intensive term was removed from

the dual degree program. The program allowed potential dual degree students to come to the University for two weeks in January and finish necessary liberal arts requirements before actually enrolling in the University.

Sansalone noted that she had not seen enough student participation in the program and she was not convinced that the January intensive term could effectively teach the material to students.

"She seemed incredibly surprised that the program was for prospective students and not students already enrolled in the program here," said Cheng. "There was a lot of discussion as to why it was cut and what students would be able to use to fulfill that requirement."

There is currently a plan to replace the January intensive

term. Sansalone, however, discussed what could be done with students and assured them that their suggestions would be taken into consideration.

In spite of the forum with Sansalone, many regular engineering students still have concerns for the future. The School of Engineering & Applied Science administration has yet to explain to students why various faculty members were removed from the University outside of purely budgetary concerns. Furthermore, little has been said as to how students will be served during Sansalone's restructuring. Many of these fears are unfounded, however, notes computer science Professor Jan Turner.

"There was an impression that Dean Sansalone is making decisions without faculty

input, but that's not true," said Turner. "She's actually met individually with every faculty in the School of Engineering, something that hasn't happened in 20 years. I think there's a great deal of sharing in her vision of where the school will go, and what people's concerns are."

Turner mentioned that her extensive changes, while seemingly detrimental to students, are meant to improve the long-term teaching capability of the school.

"I think that any time there are changes it makes people uncomfortable. While change is unsettling, it's something we need to do to keep the school moving forward. The fact that the dean is making changes and working toward institutional changes shouldn't be a cause for alarm," said Turner.

History of faculty concerns

Concerns over faculty involvement have marked Sansalone's academic career. During her time at Cornell University, Sansalone spearheaded an administration initiative to create eCornell in 2004, a program that sought to essentially sell classes through an online venue.

The Cornell faculty senate was very unhappy with the process by which the administration went about proposing eCornell, said Risa Lieberwitz, one of the major actors of the Cornell faculty senate at that time. "The faculty senate felt that the administration did not respect the faculty governance...the ad-

See DEAN, page 3

Bauhaus pushed back two weeks



Students dance at the annual Bauhaus party last Halloween. Bauhaus, put on by the School of Architecture, will be two weeks later than usual this year due to conflicts with Parent's Weekend and Dance Marathon.

BY MARY LEVINSON
STAFF REPORTER

Mix together a fog machine, techno music and body paint, and a Washington University student will be face to face with the School of Architecture's annual "Bauhaus" party. But this year, the costume party is being held two weeks after the traditional Halloween weekend.

According to junior Samantha Giorgio, treasurer of the Architecture Student Council (ASC), the school had to bump the party back because of scheduling conflicts.

"Parents Weekend is this weekend, which is when we normally have it, and the weekend after this is Dance Marathon, so we had to have it Nov. 11," said Giorgio.

Bauhaus, a 15-year tradition organized by sophomore architecture students, has always been held as a Halloween party, according to Giorgio. The timelessness of the costume party is not a complete coincidence.

"Bauhaus [was] an architecture school in Germany in the

1920s and one of the things they always did [was] have themed parties. It's keeping with the tradition," said Giorgio.

The date change has raised concerns with some students, such as sophomore Leah Bressler.

"I think it's annoying that the party is later because the school should have planned better and not had Parents' Weekend be the weekend closest to Halloween. Bauhaus is traditionally a Halloween party," Bressler also expressed her concerns about the weather saying, "[The weather] will be even colder outside two weeks later."

Others, such as sophomore Avi Rowe, are not worried. "This just means that Halloween will last two weeks longer," said Rowe.

Giorgio did not think that the date change would affect people's decisions to attend.

"I feel like everyone usually dresses ridiculously for Bauhaus," said Giorgio. "I don't know if it being later and colder will really change that. I think

if people want to dress up in little clothing [then they will]."

In spite of the changes being made, Bressler agreed. "I still think it will be a fun party."

In addition to moving Bauhaus back two weeks, this year's Bauhaus theme aims to educate the campus community about architecture in general. Last year's theme, "The Sustainable Party" went unnoticed by many students, but this year, ASC is hoping to make the connection to architecture more pronounced with the theme "Pass Le Corbusier." Le Corbusier is a French Swiss architect known for his pioneer work in modernism, urban planning and furniture.

"We're just trying to make people more aware of who he is as an architect," said Giorgio. "The week before Bauhaus, we're going to try and have decorations inspired by his design."

This year's theme will also include a larger focus on education. "We're going to have an exhibit in the library with Corbusier building books and we're hoping to have a mod-

el display of the architect's work."

Giorgio also said that ASC would host a "spirit week" with themed days, such as "Dress like your professor" and "Dress like your favorite architect" day, within the architecture school.

Free tickets, required for admission to Bauhaus, will be available in the week leading up to the party. Last year, a rush of students left some students ticketless.

"Last year, we could only get 2,000 people because of the fire code in the tent. People I know made fake ones and were worn in modernism through [ASC]," said Giorgio. "I think that they've always had an issue [with tickets running out]."

Tickets will be available starting Nov. 6 in Wohl Center, Mallinckrodt, and Givens Hall, among other places on campus. The party, which takes place in the Givens parking lot, will last from 9 p.m. to midnight and a student ID is required for admission.

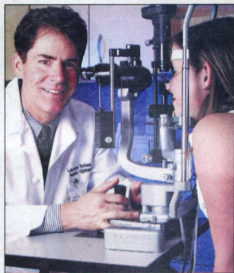
Eye doctor sees solutions for disabled children

BY LAURA GEGEL
NEWS EDITOR

Neurologist Jan Brunstrom diagnoses a host of special needs children who have disorders ranging from autism to cerebral palsy. When she finds a patient with impaired eyesight, she refers him to Lawrence Tychsen.

Tychsen, a pediatric ophthalmologist at Washington University's Medical School and ophthalmologist in chief at St. Louis Children's Hospital, first started working with Brunstrom five years ago after she approached and explained her referral system to him. The special needs children she works with, ages one to young adulthood, often receive diagnoses in multiple areas, from impaired vision to skeletal development. If she suspects one of her patients needs further medical attention beyond neurological help, Brunstrom will refer the patient to a pediatric specialist.

See DOCTOR, page 3



Dr. Lawrence Tychsen, a pediatric ophthalmologist at Wash. U's Medical School, poses with a patient in his office. Tychsen specializes in children with special needs, many of which suffer social and developmental setbacks as a result of bad eyesight.

A sports championship weekend



The Cardinals aren't the only championship-seeking teams in town this weekend. These IU sports have a shot to score big this weekend. Sports, page 4

Need a good St. Louis spook?



Even if you can't dress up for Bauhaus this weekend, you can get your share of St. Louis spookiness around town. Our entertainment calendar has the details. News, page 2

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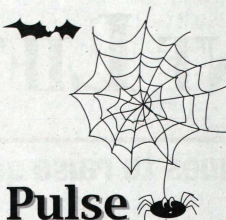
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**Pulse**

Compiled by Laura Geggel

Friday, Oct. 27**Rocky Horror Picture Show**

The future is ours, so let's plan it. Janet, and go see the Rocky Horror Picture Show at midnight on Friday and Saturday. The Tivoli Theatre and Samurai Electricians present the classic film along with Meat Loaf and Tim Curry Shorts, and live performances by Samurai Electricians. Tickets are \$6.50 and are available at the Tivoli Box Office or online.

Rat Pack and More

Singer Dean Christopher dishes out songs from Frank Sinatra and the Rat Pack at the Finale Music and Dining venue tonight at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Christopher began singing in St. Louis clubs 30 years ago and now returns to his hometown after acting in New York and Los Angeles in several soap operas and commercials. Tickets are \$17.50. Call (314) 863-8631 for tickets and/or dinner reservations.
8025 Bonhomme Ave.
Clayton, Mo. 63105

The Darkness

Get ready for the scariest fright-fest in the city. With 30 new horror scenes and over 50 creepy zombies and tattooed mummies watching your every move, The Darkness warehouse leads you through two stories of ghostly delights. Doors open from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday, but leave time for waiting in line. Tickets are \$15, or \$11 for children under 11.
1525 S. 8th St.
St. Louis, Mo. 63104

Menopause the Musical

Menopause may not make the majority of women burst into song about hot flashes, chocolate binges and hormones, but "Menopause the Musical" encourages women to laugh and share in the common experience of menopause. Four female characters: a business woman, a soap opera star, an Iowa housewife and a hippie sing to songs with rewritten lyrics, including "I heard it Through the Grapevine," and "Sayin' Awaake." The musical begins at 7:30 p.m., costs \$46 and shows at the Playhouse at West Port Plaza.
635 West Port Plaza
St. Louis, MO 63146
(314) 468-7529

Saturday, Oct. 28**Central West End Halloween Bash**

Show up early to enter the costume contest and parade, or arrive late for the over-18 party to showcase costumes, indulge in refreshments and check out entertainment. More than 15,000 people showed up last year, and costumes are optional. Costume crazies are encouraged to register in the annual contest that requires two rounds of competitive voting before places are awarded. Festivities start at 11 a.m. and end at 11 p.m. on the intersection of Maryland Avenue and Euclid Avenue.

Fiddler on the Roof

Matchmaker, matchmaker make me a match... and then please do my organic chemistry homework while you're at it. Washington University Performing Arts Department is putting on the famous musical at Edison Theatre with memorable songs like "Tradition," "If I Were a Rich Man," and "Sunrise, Sunset." Shows begin at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets, which can be purchased at the Edison Box Office, are \$9 for students, children, seniors and University faculty and staff, and \$15 for the public.

Sunday, Oct. 29**Creole Stomp**

The Schlafly Tap Room hosts the Creole Stomp band, a group well versed in Cajun vocals and fiddle, accordion, rubber board, triangle, guitar, drums and bass. Beginners can come early at 5:30 p.m. for a preliminary dance lesson, but people can also come, sit and tap their feet along to the music. Creole Stomp begins playing at 6 p.m. and costs \$12 at the door.
21st and Locust St.
St. Louis, Mo. 63103
(314) 241-2337

SamJam Alzheimer's concert

Sigma Alpha Mu is hosting SamJam, a benefit concert for the Alzheimer's association, on their front porch from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. The student band, the Elevators, opens for Rich McDonough, a local blues guitarist and his band. Admission is free, but Sammy is suggesting a \$5 donation and will be selling t-shirts to help fund Alzheimer's research.

...Trail of Dead and the Blood Brothers

If the gruesome titles aren't enough to spook you into coming, maybe the \$5 entrance to this concert in the Gargyle will entice you. Touted as one of the most energetic shows this year, both bands play for sold out crowds in tours across the country. The show runs from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$5 with a student ID, and \$15 for the public.

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SPORTS

A championship weekend

Separation Saturday: special edition

Though the Cardinals were the only hot ticket in town this weekend? Think again. This year's Parents Weekend coincides with a terrific weekend in Wash. U. athletics. Four Washington University teams are competing for league titles and each key match-up takes place on or within minutes of the Danforth Campus.

The exciting weekend kicks off Friday evening on Francis Field when the Bears women's soccer team tangles with Brandeis at 5 p.m. The game has playoff implications, as the team looks to clinch the league title over the weekend. Immediately following the women's action, the Wash. U. men's team takes the field, also against conference rival Brandeis and UAA leading scorer Ben Premo. Though this game won't directly affect NCAA tournament positioning, it could go a long way in determining the eventual league champ.

Late risers beware: Saturday's athletic action gets going early. The UAA cross country championships get underway at 11 a.m., and since this year's championship race is shorter in distance than normal XC races, both the men's and women's races should be

completed shortly after noon. The meets take place in beautiful Forest Park.

Perhaps the premier on-campus sporting event of the weekend in terms of fan interest will be the men's football game. The men are set to battle Carnegie Mellon University with the winner being named the league champion. Championship gridiron action kicks off at noon on Francis Field.

For those parents still in town on Sunday, both the men's and women's soccer teams will return to action at Francis Field. The women play at 11 a.m. against the Violets of New York University. The men also host NYU, with game action beginning at 1:30 p.m. NYU's men's team currently ranks first in the UAA, so an upset win could go a long way with regard to the Red and Green's playoff chances.

Full coverage of many of these events can be found in today's special edition of Student Life sports.

—ANDREI BERMAN
SENIOR SPORTS EDITOR

Wash. U. hosts UAA championships

❖ Men's and women's teams to compete for league crown at Forest Park

BY DAVID KRAMER
SPORTS REPORTER

The Washington University men's and women's cross country teams will compete Saturday in the UAA championship meet. This year's races are being held in Forest Park.

The women's team, currently ranked 3rd in the nation, has claimed first place in each of the past four years and are expected to easily capture the title again for their 9th total UAA championship. Unfortunately for the women, three of its top barriers are battling injuries (senior Beth Herndon and juniors Kate Pentak and Tyler Mulkin). Last year's UAA champion, Herndon, who is looking to earn all-UAA accolades for the fourth straight season, will most likely lead the talented women's team.

The men's team is coming off consecutive solid performances in its past two races. This race will be a huge test for the men, ranked 28th nation-

ally, as they will be competing against two higher ranked teams in Carnegie Mellon University (ranked 10th) and New York University (ranked 3rd). The men are planning on upset setting at least one of those teams, according to cross country Coach Jeff Stiles.

"The men are realistically battling for 2nd. NYU is ranked 3rd in the country and deservedly so. If we run to potential, no matter what place we get I will be pleased. Our ultimate goal for the men is bow, 11th as we try to qualify for NCAA's for only the 2nd time in school history," said Stiles.

This year's conference race is the first important race the cross country team has hosted in the past few years. Red Alert is sponsoring the meet, which means that those in attendance wearing their Red Alert shirts have a chance to win prizes. The 6K men's race is at 11 a.m. followed by the women's 4K at noon at the Central Fields in Forest Park.

Football set to take on Carnegie Mellon for UAA championship

BY UNAIZ KAHANI
SPORTS REPORTER

It all comes down to this. After winning its first two University Athletic Association (UAA) contests, the Washington University football team looks to take the league title when it battles the Carnegie Mellon Tartans tomorrow at noon on Francis Field.

Carnegie Mellon has won its first seven games of the

season by an average of 22.4 points and is tied with Wash. U. atop the UAA standings with a 2-0 record. Tartan head coach Rick Lackner attributes his team's success this season to his players' maturity.

"We have great senior leadership this year," said Lackner. "The players are focused, coachable and we are getting the most out of them."

But the Bears have de-

feated the Tartans in seven consecutive matches, including a 28-7 victory last year. According to Lackner, this is a golden opportunity for the Tartans to regain control of the conference.

"This game is really significant," said Lackner. "The league has been dominated by Wash. U. and it's been a while since we won league."

The Red and Green's ability to stop the Tartan's ground game should play an integral

role in the match-up. Carnegie Mellon leads the UAA in rushing and ranks sixth in the category in all of Div. III. The team's ground game is anchored by junior running backs Travis Sivek and Robert Gimson, who are both averaging over 100 yards per game. The Bears, however, rank sixth in Div. III in rushing defense and 10th in overall defense. Wash. U. has al-

See FOOTBALL, page 10

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WOMEN'S SOCCER

Championship: Friday? Sunday?

BY ARDEN FARHI
SPORTS REPORTER

With an 8-0 win over Fontbonne Monday, the Lady Bears concluded their regular season non-conference schedule. They have three conference games remaining and a chance to lock up the UAA Championship berth tonight.

The playoff picture goes as follows:

Should Emory University and the University of Rochester tie on Friday AND the Bears beat Brandeis University, Wash. U. clinches the conference championship and a tournament berth.

If the Bears beat Brandeis on Friday and New York University on Sunday, they would also clinch the UAA conference title and a spot in the NCAA tournament regardless

of the outcome of the Emory-Rochester match. The result of their last game versus the University of Chicago would essentially become irrelevant.

Any combination of a win, a loss and a tie (or better) in their final three games would also give the Bears an NCAA berth. Wash. U. could finish with the same conference record as Emory or Rochester, but Wash. U. holds the tie-

breaker, having beaten both teams already this year.

If Wash. U. loses any two (or all three) of its remaining games and Emory or Rochester overtake them for the division crown, the Bears do not necessarily go into hibernation for the off-season. They could earn an at-large bid to the NCAA's based on regional record and strength of schedule. As of today, the Bears sit atop the Central region standings with an in-region record of 13-1.

Still, the Bears control their own destiny.

"This is the first time we've had a chance to secure a spot in the tournament ourselves," said senior co-captain Talia Buccì. "We usually go into the last weekend needing to win. Now we're looking for a first-round bye and maybe to host a tournament game!"

The NCAA will announce the regional sites for the first and second rounds of the tournament on Nov. 6.

Head Coach Wendy Dullinger didn't seem surprised by the outcome of Monday's win over win versus Fontbonne. "It's one more regional win [that] boosts our record." But she looked at the game as more of a "tune-up" for this weekend. Junior Katie Campos said the big win over the Griffins will not only affect the Bears' preparation for Brandeis and NYU this weekend. "We definitely won't go into Friday overconfident. We are pretty level-headed this year and we take each game pretty seriously."



Junior Abbey Hartmann goes after the ball in a game against Maryville. The Bears have the possibility of clinching the UAA conference title this weekend.

Brandeis comes to St. Louis with a 1-0-3 mark in conference play which puts them in fourth place behind the first-place Bears and Emory and Rochester.

"We're a little anxious because we don't know what to expect from Brandeis," said Buccì. "But we're really excited to be playing at home again."

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Dr. Jordan's talk is part of the Ethical Society's Family Ethics series.

On November 5, John Hoad, Leader Emeritus, addresses "Parenting at the Speed of the Internet."

For more information about upcoming events, concerts and lectures please visit our website, www.ethicalstl.org 900s Clayton Road • 1/4 mile west of the Galleria • 314-991-0955

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STUDENT LIFE

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Wednesday: Nathan Everly
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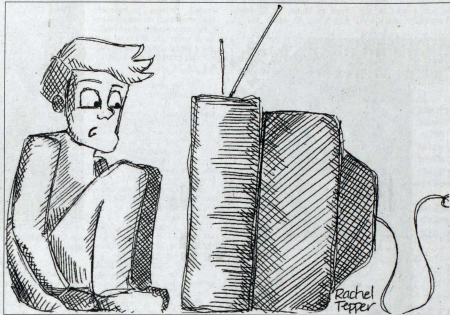
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We welcome your submissions and thank you for your consideration.

Grey's Anatomy of an addiction

BY MARISSA FIORUCCI
STAFF COLUMNIST

I used to think I was immune to addictive television series. I considered myself among the lucky few who managed to resist the magnetic allure of TV every season. I say all this in past tense because over the past few weeks I have quickly spiraled into a love affair with one of the nation's favorite shows—"Grey's Anatomy." It started out innocently enough. My roommate, having recently acquired the first two seasons of the medical-based drama, asked the rest of us if we were interested in watching. After discovering no one had seen a single episode, we decided it was only fair to pay homage to the rare occurrence by watching the episodes in chronological order together as a suite. Quickly, nighttime viewings became a sacred ritual we'd look forward to throughout the day. On some days, our only sense of true peace was huddling together in the glow of the show's projection emitting from the tiny laptop screen. We'd laugh together, cry together, gasp, woot and swoon together in perfect union. As the days passed, life inevitably began to impede on our nightly ritual and episodes were missed, private viewings were guiltily confessed, and tensions escalated. Our grades began to slip and we lost interest in extracurricular activities. Life just didn't seem to have the same joyful spark without a steady dose of "Grey's" each night. It was as if a small part of our existence was inextricably linked to the exhilarating roller coaster ride of emotions the show so lovingly bestowed upon us every time we pressed play, and there was nothing we could do to stop watching.



The somewhat unsettling fact is my suite's experience is probably similar to that of the majority of people exposed to television. Be honest with yourself. I'm sure some of you would still think it impossible to be seduced by a television drama, but maybe you shouldn't be so sure. Think of the multitudes of shows that have been obsessively followed on our campus alone—"Project Runway," "Nip/Tuck," "24," "Desperate Housewives," "Lost," "The OC," "American Idol" and "Grey's Anatomy" (to name a few).

Having thought a lot about the matter, I've noticed some uncanny parallels between those

"I've noticed some uncanny parallels between those who are addicted to particular television shows and those who are addicted to drugs."

who are addicted to particular television shows and those who are addicted to drugs. For instance, those who have been "using" for multiple seasons might find themselves anticipating their next fix and feel a genuine sense of loss when they miss an episode one week. Thankfully, modern inventions such as TiVo have made this devastating experience a thing of the past for those who are fortunate enough to have the technology. And for those in need of a quick fix due to escalated tolerance levels, an iPod and a freshly uploaded episode will instantly satisfy your between-class cravings.

Let's look at another, somewhat creepy parallel. How about when the plot takes a shockingly positive turn, say if two characters finally get together after months of anticipation, and viewers experience a sense of warmth, well-being, euphoria or contentment. Coincidentally enough, all of these effects are also consequences of heroine use. And then there are the devastating repercussions of watching the season finale. The withdrawal experienced post-finale is very real and can last for a few days, weeks, or even months depending on your individual level of dependence. Ok, so maybe I've blown the situation a little bit out of proportion, but you can't deny there is something addictive about the theory that TV these days may have an unhealthy, somewhat controlling grasp on our lives. If nothing else, it's something to think about.

So the question is: do we embrace this nationwide addiction or do we treat it? Television companies certainly would profit from our social acceptance of this rapidly developing phenomenon. If the delicate concoction of drama, romance, and neatly packaged life lessons becomes any more powerful, television companies could become the equivalent of today's tobacco companies—leeching off of consumers despite what's in their best interest. Maybe one day we'll have a healthy detachment from the shows we watch on TV, but until it becomes a major health issue, I say we embrace it (then again, I'm hooked on the stuff).

Marissa is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences. She can be reached via e-mail at mrfioru@wustl.edu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sansalone is not the enemy

Dear Editor:

Student Life needs to calm down and recognize that Dean Sansalone is not the enemy ("Dean Sansalone: tear down this wall," Oct. 23, 2006). On the contrary, she is an extremely talented academic leader, who has taken on the challenge of moving the School of Engineering into the top ranks, and we are very fortunate to have her as our dean. She has been tackling this challenge with a wide-ranging vision, a clear-sighted assessment of what's working well and what isn't and she has brought tremendous energy and dedication to the task. She has spent countless hours meeting with faculty, students and staff and has worked hard to understand their concerns and share her vision for the school.

While institutional change can be unsettling, we all need to understand that in a field as dynamic as engineering, continuous change comes with the territory. If we are to keep up with our peers and move the institution forward, we need to be constantly reevaluating what we do. As faculty, we need to be thinking about how the curriculum must change to meet the evolving needs of society and the career aspirations of our students.

We need to be looking for new research opportunities

and trying to understand where to direct our efforts to have the greatest impact on our fields and peoples' lives. And we need to be prepared to reorganize ourselves and adjust the way we do things in order to better address the larger objectives of the institution.

While the resulting changes in departmental structures and administrative operations may be unsettling, we have to be prepared to make such changes in order to move ahead.

These are exciting times for the School of Engineering. There is a great deal that needs to be done in order to move the school into the top ranks, but in Dean Sansalone, we have a leader who relishes the challenge and recognizes the tremendous opportunities that lie before us. She enjoys broad support from the university administration, and all who have met with her and worked with her on issues recognize that she is a leader of tremendous energy, uncompromising integrity and outstanding administrative ability.

While not everyone will agree with every change that takes place over the next few years, I am confident that five to ten years from now we will look back on this period as one of the most dynamic, creative and productive times in the history of the school, and I very much look forward to being

Past the Expiration Date



ing a part of it.

Campus card not quite successful

Dear Editor:

In your staff editorial on Wednesday, you assert that the campus card implementa-

tion in laundry machines is a success. Well, it's mostly a success, but in Rosedale, it is still using quarters. There is a box on the wall that looks like it is supposed to accept our cards, but it is not hooked up to anything, and it displays a blank screen.

I e-mailed Restlife in

September asking when they planned to get the system up and running in Rosedale, and they responded only that they were working on it. Nearly a month later, nothing.

So, not quite a success.

Derek Dehler
Class of 2007

YOUR VOICE: LETTERS AND GUEST COLUMNS

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Leaving the crowd: a bold move

Fall break almost broke me. I was expecting a much needed vacation; I didn't realize it would be a stint in solitary.

Starting Thursday afternoon, Wash. U. unleashed a mass exodus. It felt like just about everyone split.

Tess Croner

Everyone with the means to flee, everyone with ties or connections in the Midwest, everyone with a safe house somewhere, anywhere, to protect them from the vacation devastation about to hit campus. So many of my

friends scurried away like rats abandoning a sinking ship. But this exodus, I learned, wasn't an all-or-none stay put. I held my ground, and man oh man, do I wish I hadn't.

On Saturday, I stared at the ceiling for an hour. Then I watched "Look Who's Talking." If there is anyone out there who would like to argue for the comedic chemistry of John Travolta and Kirstie Alley, you have my e-mail address, and you're going down. I'm not sure what happened to the rest of Saturday, but I do know that just to rub salt in the wounds of those who stayed, Bear's Den closed early (so no dinner for Tess) and Bear Mart simply shut down (so no M&M fix for Tess). It was a long, long

weekend. But starvation and chocolate distress are nothing compared to people deprivation. And here's where I try to tie all this whining into something bigger and deeper.

This isn't really about Fall Break. Fall Break was just a convenient, comfortable extreme that highlights the insidious truth about getting by as a freshman any more. I'm all by myself. A lot.

I don't remember ever being alone as a freshman year. I had a roommate. And I had maybe two other alternating social groups to protect me from the echoing silence of alone time. I traveled in a pack of freshmen and almost always ate at the big

Bear's Den tables. Forget all that stuff about knowing

"I stuffed myself at the freshman buffet of interdependence, but now I'm on the sophomore crash diet."

how to be your own best company. I unlearned all of that in my freshman year.

Now I need it back. I stuffed myself at the freshman buffet of interdependence, but now I'm on the sophomore crash diet."

dence, but now I'm on the sophomore crash diet. Compared to all the shrieking and giggling of last year's horde, the quiet of my single room can be deafening. All this silence is a daunting thing. At least it's much more intimidating than I ever imagined it could be.

If I were still on my freshman floor, would I have lugged in bed for two and a half hours watching John Travolta work his infinite charm? Surely someone would have stopped me. Or at least joined in to make the scenario a little less pathetic.

The trick, of course, is balance. I haven't forgotten the crazed, sleepless times last year when I plotted

escape from my freshman floor. I now have a door that closes and locks and locks EVERYBODY out. I no longer have to be social all the time. The party doesn't end. I can be myself, even if just any more. It has a bedtime. And so do I. This year at Wash. U., I, like my own social hours, my own study hours. I rule. And of course, I rule the room. Sometimes alone time gets pretty damn lonely. Next fall break, I'm loading up on M&M's and leaving the Wash. U. weekend wasteland in my dust.

Tess is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences, and a Forum editor. She can be reached via e-mail at forum@studlife.com.

Saving the college at a time when the legacies are being sold

BY TYIE ZHANG
OF-ED SUBMISSION

Sitting in a well-lit classroom today, I thought about the \$40 million that Wash. U. spends for gas consumption. A great deal of effort has been put into this community in order to use new sources of energy such as Ohio Library's solar panels. Whereas the whole Danforth Campus uses 24,000 kilowatts per hour, the solar panel generates merely one kilowatt per hour. It is more than apparent that the cost of building a solar panel for educational purposes is far greater than its actual benefit, especially when we now understand the extent of a solar panel's capabilities. Instead of putting more money on novel features, it is time to focus on saving energy and money by using a current system; in other words, we should save money first and spend money on novel designs second. Environmental problems cannot be achieved by only throwing money at them. The most important thing

is to change the habits of energy use. During the summer I did a study to find out how much energy and money we can save by having different temperature set-points on thermostats. Using LabSci 300, Ross & Kuzrizzini (an engineering firm) estimated for me the effects of lowering the set-points in terms of conserving energy and money. The annual utility cost for LabSci 300 is \$37,000 when the set-point is 74 degrees, \$34,000 when it is 72 degrees and \$30,000 when it is 70 degrees. Normally, the default set-point is 72 or 73 degrees, but it varies according to the professors and students. The energy usage at 74 degrees is 3.3 million kWh, 2.9 million at 72 degrees and 2.6 million at 70 degrees. From this result, we could hypothesize a 70 degree temperature set-point will save us up to \$7000 and 7 million kWh annually just for LabSci 300 alone. We should set the temperature set-points in all buildings in Danforth Campus 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

It was impossible for the facility department to make estimation about how much in total we can save by implementing this idea in the whole campus, but the example of LabSci 300 would convince everyone that lowering temperature set-points is an effective way to conserve energy. Doing so will be simple, practical and promising in changing the root of the habits of energy use. A similar campaign called "Warm Biz" has been carried out nationally in Japan as a way to reach their goal for the Kyoto Protocol, and has been proven effective after two years of implementation.

Some would argue why we have to sit in colder classrooms when we pay an already too expensive tuition—don't we deserve the most comfortable studying environment? Yet, it is simply about saving energy and money. This country is rich and water, heating and cooling is taken for granted by most. However, this availability is not the norm for people in the

world. By using so much energy than other countries, especially developing countries, we are forcing those who cannot even afford heating to share the burden of environmental destruction with us. Simple as it is, the thoughts behind it stride over many other important issues.

We would not need any great amount of finding to save energy because by wearing one more layer of clothes would do. We could ask the administrators to spend the money that we saved on something that is beneficial to the students. Decreasing the activity fees or having a better recycling system would be good examples. If successful, this idea could be applied even to the local communities. As Mother Teresa said, "We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean, but the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."

Tyie is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences. She can be reached via e-mail at tyiezh@artsci.wustl.edu.

BY CHRISTIAN SHERIDAN
OF-ED SUBMISSION

From where does our namesake come? Last time I checked, campus is not very close to Washington, Mo. There does not seem to be any connection with Washington, D.C., our capital or Washington State. If the name has anything to do with a certain president, Mr. George Washington, then one would think we might have a day off from school in his honor. Maybe make it a four-day weekend right after work starts getting "really hard" after Christmas break, when everyone could really use a vacation. When was his birthday again? It wouldn't matter if no one else celebrated the day, we would be special because we are named after the glory and moral fortitude of our exemplary president. Because this is not the case, that no one can be for Wash. University students exists, I have a hard time seeing any connection with anything in Washington.

Furthermore, the name holds our school back from true greatness. One sign of a school's greatness: its sweet school apparel.

As it stands now, we have some of the most awkward looking school sweatshirts, t-shirts, jackets, etc. In no way do they represent the design of said clothes, they have done the best they can with the materials they've been given. Where does one put the title "Washington University in St. Louis" on an article of clothing?

Across the chest the phrase is too long and the words either too minuscule to the point of illegibility, or they need to be put on two lines making the name into an ironic statement as is popular among contemporary t-shirt designers. I guess I have that shirt that says "Sugar Daddy" on the front. The irony? I'm broke! I have seen the name written on the sleeve of a shirt that goes from the top of the shoulder to the start of the armpit, a horrific sight indeed.

I have also looked everywhere on one word sweatshirts with the pride and power of some of the other top 15 Universities in our nation: Duke, Penn State, Stanford, Brown, Yale. These names fit nicely on a shirt, but more importantly, each of them presents a distinct picture of the school's identity in the world. There are many people who wear the Duke and Yale clothes who do not go to Duke or Yale. I think we need a hard press to find someone not related to Washington University in St. Louis wearing one of our clattered shirts. From a marketing standpoint, Duke and Yale have free advertisement for the benefit of all those wearing the college gear while Washington University in St. Louis drifts

into obscurity.

Another sign of greatness for an American university is name recognition. An experiment: take 100 people from across the nation and show them the U.S. news report of the top 20 colleges in the nation and ask them what they know about each college/university. I will bet my life savings (careful now—remember, I'm broke) that Wash. U. for the largest percentage of people, is the least recognized school on the list.

How many times have you, my fellow students, had to explain that Washington University in St. Louis is in St. Louis? I cannot count (mostly because I am an English student) the number of times I have been asked what going to school on the West Coast is like, or what the fast paced political life going on all around me. How is it possible that we have so many talents, inherent brightness and hard work is almost entirely unappreciated by the masses of people that do not know where you go to school, whereas if you went to a more reputable or academically inferior school, like Brown, you would be celebrated as a genius? This, my friends, is an outrage.

Here is what I propose: Budweiser University. It is no secret that there is a deep and long lasting relationship with Wash. U. and the Anheuser-Busch company. We can thank our friends making Budweiser beer for Anheuser-Busch Hall, Busch Laboratory and Busch Hall, three prominent buildings on our campus. The school's long drinking policy clearly says something about Wash. U.'s existing relationship with the Anheuser-Busch company (after all, who is drinking Natty Light other than undergraduates?).

The amount of money the school would make from such a sponsorship would have a connection to continue growing in size and excellence. It might even be enough money to start charging us for printing in the library. The national recognition would make the school one of the most powerful university in the nation and, if the school kept its same selective standards, might firmly root our school in the top ten in the country.

Our school would be professionally designed and memorable, and our school's name would have a connection to deep-rooted St. Louis heritage. Most importantly, however, we would have a household reputation: "You go to Budweiser University in St. Louis." How do you freakin' genius! How do you like St. Louis?"

Christian is a junior in Arts & Sciences. He can be reached via e-mail at cs Sheridan@artsci.wustl.edu.

New dorms make the difference...more

BY SARAH MEDVIDS
STAFF COLUMNIST

Let me preface this by saying I am not a proponent of college students living in hotels or hospitals. In fact, I've been known to criticize new dorms for being way too sterile and way too ritzy—any time you walk into a room and are afraid to spill your beer or bump something against the wall, you're stepped beyond the realm of "collegiate" and entered into the realm of "pretentious upper class."

That being said, something really has to be done about the old dorms. I love them, I embrace everything that they stand for, but the condition in which they currently reside is absolutely disgusting. And it's not that they're worn, it's not because of the marks on the walls or the chip-and-peel on the tile floors, that I'm saying this. No, I'm not complaining because the old dorms have been through too much. I'm complaining because

instead of spending money replacing mold-infested air conditioning systems or even simply adequately cleaning out existing units, the university seems to have been made that the old dorms will be torn down soon enough so fixing them up at all would be a waste of money.

Personally, I'd argue that the ability to breathe in, in fact, a worthy cause. This is a thought.

This morning I went through three entire cleaning weeks, all turned completely black in the walls, and the smell of mold and dirt was not my first attempt. I know that when my suitcases and I moved into our suite, the smell of mold was not upon because they had swollen shut, and there was humidity literally dripping from the walls—humidity that returns when the humidity is shut off. I know not to look up

in the shower, because the green spatter of mold across the ceiling is not what one would call pleasant to behold. And finally, I know the smell of Mani very, very well, as he took apart and cleaned one specific AC unit four different times, with the only result being that now we

"If it's also true that the only choice is between living in a hospital and being hospitalized, I think most will opt for the former."

have lemon-scented mold wafting out of it. We're still waiting on the results of our air-quality tests.

But I mean, maybe I'm being melodramatic, but when six people smell mold and two develop breathing problems, I think it's safe to say that we're not making it up. There is a problem. The extent of that problem

leads me to believe that it isn't just contained to our rooms, and that there have been other students on campus living in similar conditions. If that's true, and if it's also true that the only choice is between living in a hospital and being hospitalized, I think most will opt for the former.

But maybe, just maybe, there's a happy medium. Maybe instead of investing millions of dollars on new dormitories, we could just swap the old ones a little bit. Wouldn't it be worth it to save the (obviously) superior ones? I mean, I have seen the size of our common rooms? Do you not envy our balconies? Honestly, you should. Old suites are for at least, could be pretty sweet.

More importantly, old dorms have the thirty years of wear and tear that one expects when imagining a "college" dorm. The whole vintage college-you-should-throw-a-party-here kind of aesthetic. As we tell prospective students, they're "traditional."

I'm a big fan of tradition. I just not a fan of hospitals, in any sense. You know?

Sarah is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences. She can be reached via e-mail at sarahmed@artsci.wustl.edu.

Romance 101

The first date...with the parents

There will be lots of preparations for this weekend, Wash. U. will be planting an excess of flowers to distract from the giant holes/parking lots taking over the campus, professors will be prepping interesting and appropriate lectures for Friday and students will be stashing liquor bottles in boxes under their beds.

Parents Weekend signals the time for another preparation, too. It's time to prepare for the next big step in your relationship: meeting the parents.

In college, we are lucky enough to postpone this nerve-racking experience for a while simply because many people's parents are several hundred miles away from the Danforth Campus. In high school, you usually had to have that awkward first conversation when picking up your girlfriend for a

date or just running into your boyfriend and his parents at the local grocery store. But now, you can date for months without ever thinking about the people who once changed the diapers of your significant other.

So how do you prevent this weekend from being a Ben Stiller type of experience?

Background Information.

Ask your boyfriend or girlfriend to tell you about the 'rents. They should be happy to divulge information because it's probably pretty important to them that their parents approve of you. Talk about some of mom and dad's interests that you could just casually bring up over dinner and definitely make sure to talk about any major red flags. For example, if your boy's parents are strict Republicans, you might not want to crack the latest "Dub-ya" joke.

Any information that can prepare you for the big day is a major plus.

The Basics. You need to decide with your boyfriend or girlfriend what you want the first meeting to be. Will it be a casual introduction in the dorm and then a double date to see Fiddler on the Roof or a nice night out downtown? Depending on the place, pick an appropriate outfit. Though your boyfriend may tell you that his parents won't care what you're wearing, he is not the one deciding if this new girl is good enough for their little boy. If you're going out to dinner, leave the low-cut tops, gooly T-shirts and ripped jeans in your dorm room. Though parents will probably not be judging you on whether you are up with cur-



Laura Alexander

rent fashion trends, they will notice if they can see your thigh riding up or if they have to stare at a Corona hat all night.

Another basic thing to be aware of is your behavior. You should absolutely

be yourself because they will probably see the same great things in you that attracted their daughter to you, but try to be on your best behavior. Even if you forget to do it in your day-to-day life, this would be a good time to think before you act. Mothers may forget the name of the movie you saw together, but they will remember an offensive comment for years.

The Conversation. After the initial introductions, you now have a full dinner to fill with interesting conversation.

Don't sit there like the silent fourth-wheel as your boyfriend tells his parents about the first few stressful months of school. Jump into the conversation and talk about common interests between you and your boyfriend or you and his parents. Though they might seem cool, try to steer clear of potentially awkward topics until you have known them for more than an hour. Even if his dad tells a story about his frat in college, he may be uncomfortable hearing about his son's drunken adventures in the quad on W.L.L.D.

If the waiter was the last person who has spoken in a few minutes, a good fallback topic is your family. Maybe not the stories about your neurotic aunt quite yet, but memories of family trips or your parents' impressions of Wash. U. The folks usually like to hear

about your care for your own parents. Be careful not to be fake or brown-nose, however, because his parents weren't born yesterday. They'll probably frown at fabricated enthusiasm more than they would at a few uncomfortable silences.

Parting Ways. When the weekend finally comes to a close, it's important to make as good of a final impression as a first impression. Be sincere about how nice it was to finally meet them and wish them luck on whatever project they mentioned over dinner so they know you really were listening. Let them know you are looking forward to spending more time with them. If after all your preparation you pass the test, you may just have an invitation to their house for winter break and, even better, a couple of fans to remind your girlfriend how lucky she is to have you.

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Stepping Out

Café Natasha

3200 S. Grand Blvd.
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(314) 771-3411
\$7-20

BY MARGOT DANKNER AND ALEXA NATHANSON
SCENE STAFF REPORTERS

Sometimes, while in search of one thing, you stumble upon something even better. This is precisely what happened to us one fateful Tuesday as we ventured down on Grand into SLU territory looking for a Vietnamese restaurant we had heard wonderful things about. When we arrived, the windows were dark and the place looked deserted. The restaurant happened to be closed on Tuesdays and, as we sadly shuffled our way back into the car, we decided to stop at the next place we passed.

There was a small Persian place called Café Natasha just down the street that looked good enough. Though one of us could remember hearing of it from a Persian friend, we did not have high expectations as we entered the door with our rumbling stomachs. We were hungry, and just needed somewhere to eat before heading back to campus.

As we sat down, still moping over the fact that

Rating:



the Vietnamese place was closed, we opened our menus and began to examine the multitude of authentic Persian dishes Café Natasha offered. Looking through the myriad appetizers, we decided to take a chance and try a few more esoteric dishes rather than the more typical hummus and baba ghanousj. When the Kashke-bademjune arrived, a warm dip made up of pureed flame roasted eggplant with garlic, mint and spices topped with caramelized onions and olive oil, our moods instantly began to improve. The smooth, sweet dip was fantastic on the thin house pita and was unlike anything we had ever tried.

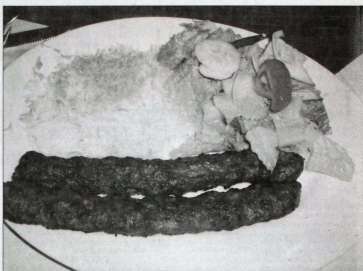
We also ordered colossal hot olives, which were marinated to perfection with a slight hint of spice.

Filling up on delicious eggplant and olives, we were feeling confident that the restaurant would not steer us wrong with our entrees. We decided to go all out with our Persian experience and ordered two very traditional dishes. Though it took awhile to arrive,

the Kubideh Kabob came with two generous slices of grilled minced beef and lamb nestled next to perfectly cooked saffron rice and one of the best Greek-style salads we have ever had. The salad, a mixture of fresh romaine, cucumber, onion, tomato and Bulgarian feta was served with a tangy house-made yogurt dressing that was the perfect complement to the crunchy vegetables. The dressing was so good, in fact, that we decided to pour some of it over the meat and rice as well.

Fessenejoon stew, a pomegranate and walnut based dish with thick chunks of tender chicken, is a popular Persian specialty and was phenomenal at Café Natasha. The flavors of fresh pomegranate and walnut virtually sang through the sauce and the chicken was so tender it fell apart on the fork. We were disappointed, however, with the amount of chicken—the dish arrived with a scant seven or eight chunks of meat.

This was almost made up, though, by the rich base of the stew, which was soaked



Café Natasha offers delectable dishes to satisfy any palate. Traditional Persian dishes offer an authentic experience, Kabobs and all.

up beautifully by an ample supply of saffron basmati rice.

While we feasted on these specialties, content in knowing that we had stumbled upon a gem, our friends decided to try some of the more mainstream dishes.

In addition to their many traditional Persian stews and Kabobs, Café Natasha has a rather extensive sandwich menu. One friend decided to try their falafel sandwich, which came in a thin pita wrapped around warm patties of fried chick-

pea batter, tomatoes, lettuce and the delicious yogurt dressing. She was extremely impressed with the sandwich and declared that she would definitely go back again.

Our other friend went for the chicken Kabob, which was house made minced chicken, roasted with spices and served with the same fixings as the falafel. She was equally impressed.

As we left, we were no longer sad that we hadn't been able to go to the Vietnamese restaurant. Instead

we were ecstatic that we had encountered such a fantastic Persian restaurant and we can't wait to go back to try some of their other dishes. Though the service was a bit slow, the huge selection of meat and vegetarian dishes are sure to please even the more finicky eater, making it an ideal place for a leisurely weekend meal with a big group of friends. Just be careful, if you go on a Wednesday it'll be closed—but you can always go to the Vietnamese place across the street.

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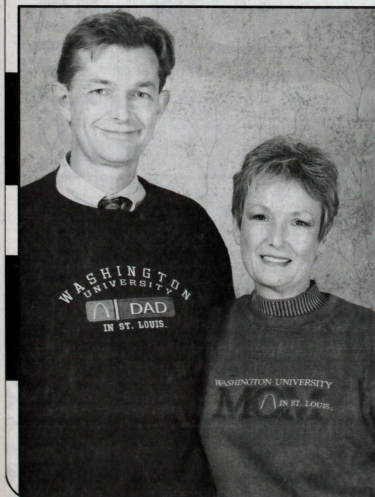
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Health Beat

Where have all the trans fats gone?

The new health buzz is that food companies are removing trans fats from anything and everything. Frito-Lay started the trend when they began marketing trans fat free baked chips a few years ago. Now Kraft Foods and Pepperidge Farms have joined the bandwagon. Kraft recently began selling trans fat free Triscuits and Oreo's and Pepperidge Farms plans on having trans fat-free Goldfish available by December 2006.

In this new "trans fat free" craze targeting a legitimate health concern? Or is this simply another American fad in food advertising and consumption?

First of all, what are

trans fats?

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, trans fats are the fats produced by adding hydrogen to vegetable oil through a process called hydrogenation.

The oil turns from a liquid into a solid fat. Hydrogenation is common because it increases food's shelf life and flavor stability. Trans fats are found in vegetable shortenings, used to produce a majority of the foods we consume on a daily basis.

It's no surprise that fast foods such as French fries

are some of the biggest trans fat offenders. Trans fats are also especially prevalent in processed snack foods like granola bars, crackers and cookies, and even in some snacks that are considered "low fat."

A small amount of trans fat is found naturally in meat, dairy and other animal based products as well. The amount is negligible, however, when compared to the amount of trans fats in snack foods.

On campus, all of the oil used for frying is trans fat free. As a general rule, Connie Diekmann, Washington University's director of

university nutrition, recommends that if you are avoiding trans fats you should probably forgo packaged foods, fried foods and baked goods as foods high in total fats are usually high in trans fats as well.

Students will be happy to know, however, that going to a trans fat diet doesn't mean you have to avoid Hittop muffins in the morning.

"All the muffins on campus, except the blueberry muffins, are trans fat free and the pancake mix is trans fat free," noted Diekmann.

Consuming trans fats definitely has negative effects, as the fats not only raise your "bad" types of cholesterol but also are

responsible for lowering the "good" types of cholesterol in your blood.

"Scientific evidence has linked trans fats to an increased risk of coronary heart disease," said Diekmann. "Development of disease is a process that occurs with exposure to triggers so there may be no immediate impact but the long-term effects are of concern."

What does this mean for you? You may not feel those French fries killing you today, but wait thirty years and once you add in your family history and other lifestyle habits you may end up regretting those late night trips to White Castle.

FOOTBALL ♦ FROM PAGE 4

lowered only one team to rush for over 100 yards in a game this season.

"[The Bear's defense] is tough to exploit," Lackner admitted. "Their linebackers are very active and they are very well-coached. We know they are going to be a major challenge."

On offense, the Bears will likely try to take advantage of their own running game against a weak Tartan rushing defense, which gives up 123 yards per game. Expect running backs senior Dakonze Jenkins and junior Gabe Murphy to see plenty of carries. The Red and Green backfield will have to protect the ball, though, as Carnegie Mellon's defense ranks 14th in Div III in turnover margin.

"Wash. U. has a very veteran offense. Jenkins and Murphy are both excellent backs," added Lackner. "But [the Bears] are well-balanced and can hurt you on the ground and through the air."

Washington University has plenty of momentum after defeating Case Western University 13-7 last week to extend its winning streak to a season-high three games. The Bears' offense scored all 13 points in the first quarter, and the defense was able to hold on for the victory, allowing only 66 rushing yards and 194 yards of total offense.

After their duel with Carnegie Mellon, the Bears finish their 2006 campaign at home Nov. 11 when they take on non-conference opponent Greenville College (5-2).

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SCENE

GLORY, GOLD AND A TOUCH OF GOOFINESS

The semi-serious world of soap box racing

BY FELICIA BASON
SCENE REGULAR FEATURES EDITOR

This Saturday, don't be surprised if you see the Pope flying down the hill outside of the MUNY in Forest Park. No, there isn't a religious protest planned for this weekend. The Red Bull Soap Box Race is coming to St. Louis, and with it comes flying popes, gigantic cheese puffs and even a giant skateboard.

For the first time in its history, the annual soap box race sponsored by the Austrian energy drink company Red Bull will take place in the United States. Forty-one teams, each consisting of five people, will battle for glory by means of outlandish non-motorized cars. Teams are coming in from all over the nation to participate in the event.

Some of these teams are also from our very own campus. Team Pope Mobile, responsible for the flying pope, is made up of Matt Denny, Tommy Pizzini, Matt Schweiker, Todd Schiller and Jason Anderson, all Washington University sophomores.

Denny and Schweiker had initially considered participating in the Red Bull Flugtag, a competition in which participants hand-make flying contraptions and fly them into bodies of water. When Pizzini and Schiller saw local ads for the soap box race, the friends decided to shift their focus to the creation of a soap box car.

"When somebody mentioned that they were doing the soap box here in St. Louis, [we] figured it'd be perfect," said Schweiker, the team's captain.

The Pope Mobile team recruited Anderson, a talented artist, to create their sketches.

Pizzini suggested that their design provides a great opportunity for spectators to catch a glimpse of a respected religious figure.

"I think a lot of people don't get to see the Pope in their life, so this is our chance to be a conduit," said Pizzini. "At least they'll get to see a pope driving a soap box."

Anderson added that the team didn't think they would be chosen. "We kind of submitted it as a borderline joke," said Anderson. "I really think we got picked purely for shock value."

Due to the unexpectedly large pool of applicants, Red Bull decided to choose collegiate teams separately. When the notification date came and went without any sort of acknowledgement from Red Bull, another team of Wash. U. students known as the Quadra-Gnomes assumed their application had been rejected.

"We didn't think we got picked because they were supposed to tell us by Sept. 11," said team captain and University senior Matt Jones. "They didn't tell us until four days [later] that they hadn't decided



which collegiate teams were in and [that] we would have to wait until [Sept. 28]."

The non-collegiate teams had already been working on their cars for a couple of weeks by the time the collegiate teams found out they were accepted. Once notified, the teams hurried to start production. Since Red Bull doesn't give the participants any money to build their cars, Jones and team-mates Bob Rowe, Arthur George Bauman III, Fahr Juneja and Roger Rowe, all seniors, began by soliciting backers.

"We talked to most of the businesses on the loop looking for

sponsorship but no one sponsored us," said Jones.

Ultimately, the Quadra-Gnomes received funds from two engineering firms as well as their own parents. The team built the car in a warehouse adjacent to Quadrangle Housing, an off-campus housing affiliate of the University.

"It actually worked out well," said Roger Rowe, a team mechanic. "The engineering firm pretty much gave us a blank check."

Team Pope Mobile had to turn to their creative talents to find funds for their soap box race.

"One morning at breakfast I had an epiphany and I said that

this was going to be really expensive and we could sell T-shirts to build team spirit and make extra cash for the car," said Schweiker.

Schweiker's managed to sell about 80 shirts, which the team members hope will help cover many of their expenses.

"We don't really know," said team mechanic Schiller. "We don't know what the final price of the car is going to be."

Teams are responsible for all aspects of production and both teams plan on working on their

cars up until the last minute. The Quadra-Gnomes got some construction advice from employees of the Rod Jenkins Custom Rod Shop, who suggested that the team use foam in their design. For their car, the Pope Mobile team salvaged a lot of parts from an old motorized lawnmower. Schweiker then built the car in a period of forty-eight hours, without sleeping.

"I just kind of did it," said Schweiker. "I made my own bicycle a couple years ago so I learned how to weld, and woodworking was just kind of common sense. I figured saw plus wood equals cut wood."

The Pope Mobile is essentially what it sounds like—a car that carries the Pope. The driver, whose head pokes out of the back of the car, will be wearing a hat similar to that of the Pope.

Team Quadra-Gnome's design features a gigantic, muscled man on wheels. The driver's head will pop out and serve as the man's head. Other teams' designs include humongous calculators and a Swiss Army Knife.

On Saturday, visitors can view the cars from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., when the actual race begins. Each team is responsible for a short skit that will be presented before their car launches. To race, one member sits in the car and the other four push the car to help get it going. Though two cars are run at a time, the teams' scores really depend on their time, not one-on-one competition.

Building a car while going to school has proven to be a little difficult.

"Other people are using paid employees and we're working around classes, midterms and projects," said Jones. "All my friends who aren't doing this with us are [mad] at me because they haven't seen me in weeks."

Yet, the race holds many perks for these students. The team members are provided with cases of Red Bull to fuel them as they work. Participants also receive hotel rooms the weekend of the race and are invited to an after party sponsored by Red Bull.

And then, of course, there is always the chance of winning. Contestants are judged on speed, creativity and personality, and the prizes include a weekend at a real racetrack, kart racing and of course, cash. The grand prize awards the winners with a trip to the 2007 NASCAR Nextel Cup Series races.

Quadra-Gnome mechanic Rowe noted that his team is hoping to win the People's Choice Award.

"Our goal is to make it as ridiculous as we can," said Rowe. "[What] we're hoping to bring to the race [is] debauchery."



All photos by Meghan Luecke